

October 27, 2022

THE NEXUS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE IDAHO LIBRARY COMMUNITY

Potential Facilities' Funding

If approved through the 2023 legislative process, \$3.5 million will be available through the U.S. Treasury Department's "capital projects fund" for Idaho public libraries starting in July 2023.

The funds must be used for the construction or improvement of buildings designed to jointly and directly enable work, education, and health monitoring in communities with critical need for the project.

Libraries would use funds to make capital improvements to their physical facilities, primarily in the form of one-time construction costs.

This funding request was almost approved during the 2022 legislative session but was removed from the Idaho Commission for Libraries' (ICfL) budget during the last day of the session.

If the funding is approved, the grant application would likely be released in February 2023 and due in April. Keep an eye on LibIdaho and the ICfL's website (<https://libraries.idaho.gov>) for more information as it becomes available.

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<https://libraries.idaho.gov>

ICfL Idaho
Commission
for Libraries

Potential Facilities' Funding

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Next steps:

Library staff who think they might apply for these grants should begin planning soon. Here are some steps you can take between now and when the application is released in February 2023 (if the funding is approved by the legislature):

- Tell your Board of Trustees about this opportunity and get it on the agenda at the next meeting.
- Identify your library's capital improvements needs and determine which projects can realistically be completed by summer 2026.
- Determine which, if any of these improvements qualify as allowable projects.
- Start reaching out to contractors to understand the scope, cost, and timeline for your project. This will make your application process much easier.
- **Reach out to your local state legislators and let them know how vital it is that they approve these funds as part of the ICfL budget and what this opportunity would mean for your community.**

2021 public library stats coming soon

For those library staff members who will be attending the ICfL's Public Library Directors' Summit in early November, you will be the first to get a copy of the 2021 Public Library Statistics report. After that, the report will be emailed to the library directors who did not attend the Summit; plus, they will be available on the ICfL's website.



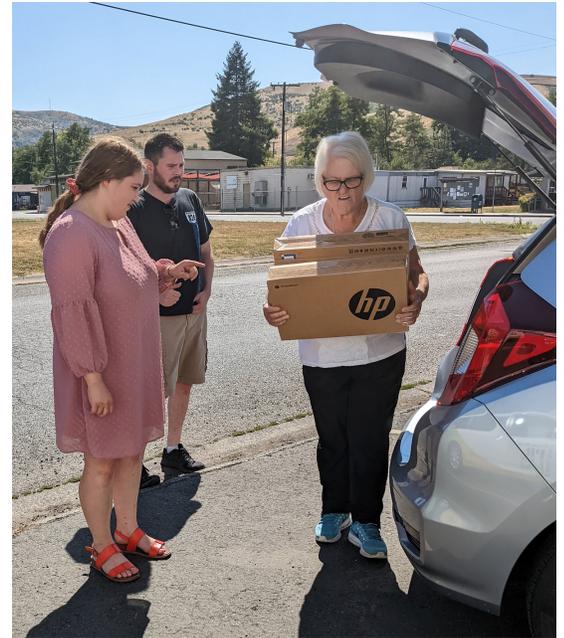
Here's a sneak peek: 480,454 people attended one of 20,049 programs held in libraries.

Connecting Communities with Chromebooks

Through its Connecting Communities Digital Inclusion program, the ICfL provided 135 Chromebooks to public libraries throughout Idaho for the purpose of expanding digital inclusion, equity, and literacy efforts.



Bellevue Public Library



Prairie River Library District

Congrats, Emmett Public!

Congratulations to Director Alyce Kelley and the staff of Emmett Public Library for being named “**Public Library of the Year**” by the Idaho Library Association. Included in the award determination was the increase in services and usage at Emmett Public, particularly during times of COVID restrictions and other barriers to service, along with staff innovations to reinvent the summer reading program and promoting “take-and-make” kits.

The library also has a service patio that includes an automated remote locker system which extends library accessibility for picking up and returning materials to 24 hours a day. The service patio is also an additional meeting space for patrons.

For more, https://www.idahopress.com/emmett/news/idaho-library-of-the-year-is-here-in-emmett/article_3caeeeb6-4e28-11ed-a856-43653b29bc01.html.

ILA Award Winners

The Idaho Library Association (ILA) held its annual conference in Lewiston in early October. Here are the 2022 award winners:

Library of the Year -- Emmett Public Library

School Librarian of the Year -- Melissa Nielson, Highland High School, Pocatello

Paraprofessional of the Year -- Debra Allen, Lewiston City Library

Trustee of the Year -- Maryann Bailey, St. Maries Public Library

Friend of the Year -- Cathy Hampton, Ada Community Library

Special Services to Libraries -- Harry Bettis, Patricia Romanko Public Library, Parma

Legislator of the Year -- Ned Burns, Seat 26A

Gardner-Hanks Scholarship -- Jonathan Lucero, Kuna Library District

ILA scholarship -- Whitney Garcia, Meridian Library District



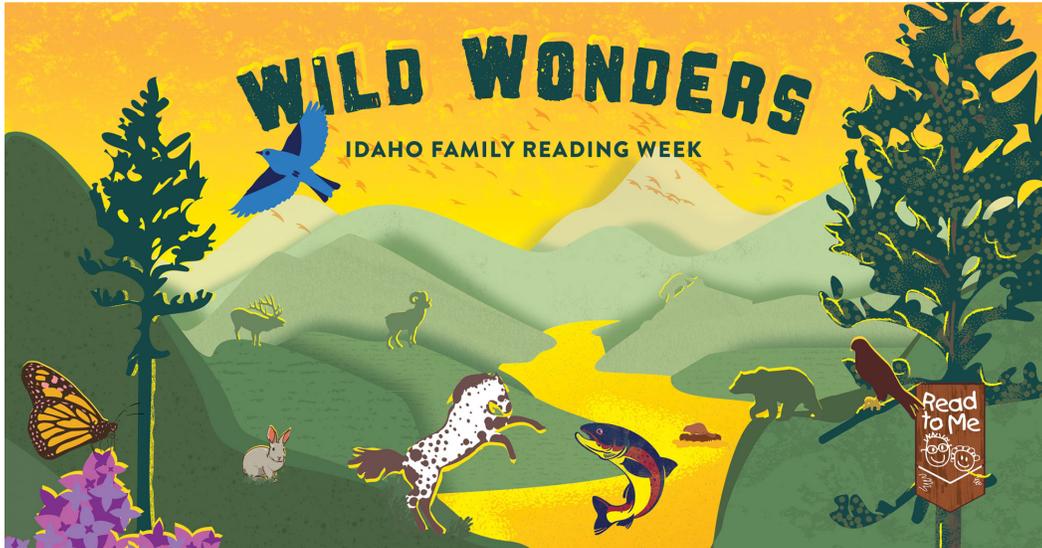
Melissa Nielson and ICfL School Library Consultant Jeannie Standal.



Group photo caption: Awardees or their representatives are pictured left to right: Cathy Hampton, Pinky Humphrey (St. Maries), Alyce Kelley (Emmett), Rep. Ned Burns, Whitney Garcia, Melissa Nielsen, and Debra Allen.

Family Reading Week -- Wild Wonders

This year's Idaho Family Reading Week (FRW) is November 7 - 13. The theme is "wild wonders." Even if you are not participating in the ICfL's FRW program, there are products and resources available on the ICfL's FRW webpage: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/rtm/idaho-family-reading-week/>.



Welcoming Libraries Grant -- Open Nov. 1-30

The ICfL's Welcoming Libraries Grant supports the efforts of library staff as they work to improve equity, diversity, and inclusion in Idaho libraries to better serve their community's underserved groups of children.

For more, <https://libraries.idaho.gov/rtm/welcoming-libraries-grant>.

Summer Program Manuals -- Shipped Soon

Program manuals for the Collaborative Summer Library Program's (CSLP) 2023 theme, "All Together Now," will be shipped to Idaho public libraries in early November. Membership in the CSLP is provided to all Idaho public libraries through federal IMLS funding administered by the ICfL. There is no obligation to use CSLP themes, artwork, or materials. The materials are available for use with your summer library program and for programming throughout the year.

New ICfL Staff Members

Allison Maier

In September, Allison Maier joined the ICfL in the role of management assistant.

Allison does a lot of work for the ICfL's board, including taking meeting minutes, preparing board documents, and helping to manage the annual board tour. Allison also works with other ICfL staff on agency events and with Public Information Officer Donna Eggers on a variety of projects. Allison has served as the communications manager for the Meridian Library District and, prior to that position, she was the outreach coordinator for the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children.

Chelsea Summerlin

Chelsea Summerlin recently joined the ICfL in the newly created role of digital inclusion consultant.

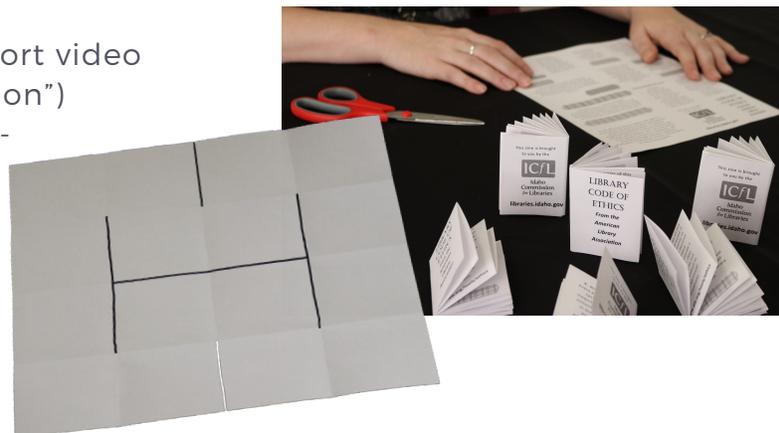
Chelsea was previously with the Community Library Network, where she provided digital literacy and one-on-one tech support training. At the ICfL, Chelsea will oversee statewide digital inclusion projects.

To reach any ICfL staff member, visit <https://libraries.idaho.gov/about/staff/>.

Zines

The ICfL has a webpage dedicated to zines -- with info, different zines available for downloading, and more: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/publications/zines/>.

Plus, visit the ICfL's YouTube channel for a short video on folding a zine: (under "Continuing Education") https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEXw_h-fMO5aBU_W-osouKw.



Why Didn't I Think of That?



Bellevue Public Library Director Kristin Gearhart brought in a foosball table this summer to attract teens to the library -- which is a plan that worked well to entice teens into the library and also give them a reason to keep coming back.

Hailey Public Library staff put up an eye-catching banned book display in September, plus they provided a guide to the reasons the books were banned.



This display shows the T-shirts the Royal Oak Library is selling to raise money for the Friends of the Royal Oak Public Library, which supports the library with programs on unforeseen expenses. (Mika McConnell photo)

Staff of the Royal Oak Library in Michigan sported and sold "I'm with the Banned" T-shirts in September.

